

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 6

January 9, 1951 -
March 17, 1952

1047

Outgoing Informal, 1952

Important as dealing with problems of Battle Analysis
Study and getting and keeping competent personnel.

See Kenny, 17 March 1952

*Captain Bruner, 15 January 1952

Problems of personnel for Analysis Group

These letters illustrate how much detail must be
handled and how the man in charge must himself have an
intimate knowledge of the affairs under study.

Tichenor, 14 August and 20 August 1952

Submarine operations

Blair, 27 August 1952

Japanese command relations

Dear Casey (Rear Admiral Green), 21 October 1952

Japanese translators--exceptional capability of
Captain J. J. Rochefort

Dear Don (Admiral Felt), 13 November 1952

Article by Vice Admiral Koyanagi, IJN, on Battle of Leyte

Dear Don (Admiral Felt), 14 November 1952

Re Admiral Heffernan's article on Midway

Admiral Kinkaid, 14 November 1952

Naval War College and Naval War College Review

1048

January 9, 1951

Dear Ralph:

I am not trying to press too many things on you because I realize from your first letter that you have a job which kept you away from home and, therefore, you may not as yet have received my second letter. When you are answering the second letter perhaps you can answer this third one as well.

If you will remember in early October 1944 ComSubPac controlled the sea areas to the Northeast of the Philippines and, as a consequence, provided one submarine to patrol the entrance to San Bernardino Strait and one to patrol Surigao Strait. At the time of Admiral Halsey's strikes on Okinawa October 10th preliminary to the landing at Leyte and for sometime earlier, ComSubPac had the submarine PARCHE on station in the entrance to San Bernardino Strait and the submarine DRUM on station in the entrance to Surigao Strait.

On October 2nd CinCPOA had informed ComSoWesPac, information you as CTF-71, that, in view of the fact that this area would be turned over to ComSoWesPac, he planned to remove these submarines from these two straits commencing October 15th. Later he ordered these submarines to be north of latitude 18°30'N by October 15th rather than to commence their departure on that date.

CinCPOA had also informed ComSoWesPac that, although Com3rd-Flt did not require any submarines for life guard at either San Bernardino Strait or at Surigao Strait he (CinCPOA) recommended that submarines be retained there until our own (Allied) surface forces were in the vicinity.

As a consequence the PARCHE and DRUM vacated their San Bernardino and Surigao Strait positions commencing October 12th and thereby left these areas vacant. No submarines were stationed thereafter in these areas either by Com7thFlt or by yourself. Do you know why it was that CinCPOA's recommendation was rejected?

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Outside of that how goes it? I hope that you have enjoyed a Happy Yuletide Season, and that the New Year will bring you all happiness. I hope to have the good fortune of meeting your Mrs. one of these days. You have more courage than I have!

Your old classmate,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral Ralph W. Christie, USN (Ret),
2244 Vallejo Street,
San Francisco, California.

1050

January 15, 1952

Dear Captain Bruner:

I noted with interest your first endorsement on Naval War College letter serial 6571-51 wherein in your paragraph 2 you stated - ".....It is understood that the fourth in the series, the analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, will be completed during fiscal 1955." I presume that the fiscal date 1955 was given to BuPers as a matter of future planning.

I read your letter to mean that the film Battle for Leyte Gulf would be completed in fiscal 1955. I therefore told Admiral Conolly of my interpretation and stated that it was more likely that the book would be completed during that fiscal year rather than the film. Admiral Conolly told me that he thought that I had read your endorsement incorrectly for he read it to mean just the opposite. He said that in his mind, the endorsement said that the analysis would be completed in fiscal 1955, and that you were advising BuPers to prepare at that time to provide funds for the film to be completed after that date. That seems a logical interpretation. I would be interested in knowing what your thoughts are in this matter.

For your information, since I started writing these books, it has been my policy at the same time that I was preparing the current analysis, to have one officer and one yeoman collecting data and drawing any rough charts necessary in order to expedite the succeeding analysis. In other words, while I was working on the Battle of the Coral Sea, one commander and one yeoman spent about 1½ years collecting data for the Battle of Midway; when I was preparing the Battle of Midway one officer and one yeoman were engaged in collecting data, etc. for the Battle of Savo Island. This condition did not obtain in preparing for the Battle for Leyte Gulf. This was because the President of the War College - Vice Admiral Donald Beary - did not provide me with the necessary officer and yeoman to work up the Leyte Gulf data in advance. I pointed out to Admiral Beary that we had twice been given directives to accomplish this analysis, but he told me not to do anything on Leyte until I had finished Savo. The basic reason for this seems to

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have been that while I was away in California he had taken several officers from my allowance, as well as my civilian secretaries and had transferred them to the Correspondence Course Section.

The result of all this was that we started on the Battle for Leyte Gulf from scratch without any collected data whatsoever. During the past year, although I have written about 300 pages on the analysis, we have been constantly held back by the difficulty of obtaining enough translations. This is not a criticism of my Japanese translators who are excellent. Fortunately, I now have on my staff, Captain Joseph Rochefort who is an eminent Japanese scholar and he is filling in many gaps which I am unable to fill with my Washington translators. The latter are busy on other items.

I also have been short-handed here by a shortage of two officers. This is because I cannot find officers competent to do this job. I would rather take longer and do it well than to have officers in whom I could not put my full trust and who merely fill the allowance.

I am finding this study extremely interesting and developments on both sides are appearing which do not bear out previous opinions. Actually, I have only gotten to October 17th - the landing of Admiral Oldendorf at Suluan Island.

I am going at length to explain this to you so that you will not be confused on prospective dates.

I don't know what will happen in the future, but it is far more likely that we will finish the analysis in the fiscal year 1955 rather than the film.

I hope that you were interested in the comments of the Army War College. They were entirely unsolicited and merely verify the comments of everyone who has seen the films. It is highly gratifying to me, and I hope it is to you.

With best wishes for a happy New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain F. Bruner, USN,
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1052

January 24, 1952

Dear Captain Burke:

It was a great relief to talk to you on the telephone this morning and discover how capably you disposed of matters similar to mine. Needless to say, you have taken the pressure not only off me, but off the administrative staff of the War College.

It is my plan to arrive in Washington during the first week in February, at which time I shall most certainly consult you and, acting on your advice, will then consult with Admirals Green and DuBose. For information, the matters which I wish to take up with you are:

(1) To insure that the promise made by Captain Gano, that the allowance of one Chief Yeoman for the World War II Evaluation Group is firm. Very frankly, I thought that it had been firm and the War College appears to have been operating on that principle. As a matter of fact, my present Chief Yeoman, Maurice W. BURTON, was with you when you were Professor of Naval Science at Holy Cross.

(2) The next thing that I desire to establish is allowance of one Chief Quartermaster for this staff assisting me, at the present time, as I told you on the telephone, I have Merrill O. STOUT, 393 22 51, QMC, USN, whom I borrowed from the Naval Base. It has taken some time to acquaint STOUT with the heavy responsibilities which I had for him. He has plotted much of the primary movements of the Allied forces in the Leyte operation. Your kindness in permitting him to remain for possibly three months is greatly appreciated. I now know that I should have a Chief Quartermaster here. I will endeavor to get one immediately so that he may learn STOUT's work from STOUT himself before detached.

(3) The third item is this: My Yeoman Second Class, Joseph W. CAVANAUGH, 606 20 01, USN, is also due to leave, and Captain Henderson allowed him to remain, for a while, until BURTON got orientated enough to understand our filing

system with its many records and to understand my methods of procedure. Just as this was about to occur, the FIRST Naval District directed BURTON's transfer elsewhere which, if it goes through, will seriously handicap me.

We have consulted the Personnel Officer of the FIRST Naval District. We have advised him that the War College considers that it is under complement instead of over as we are light one yeoman.

CAVANAUGH will be relieved presently. I am anxious to obtain a relief of high intelligence, as the Yeomen of this office are not only yeomen, but are required to perform research duties as well. In this connection, we had a Yeoman here some years ago, who is familiar with my work - KERR, Raymond B., 620 79 03, USN. If he is available he would be alright unless he now happens to be a Chief Petty Officer, in which case, I should prefer a yeoman of lesser rating.

I am mentioning much of this to you so that when I arrive there the situation will be easy to understand for both of us and will not take too much of your time.

Once again, let me thank you for your kindness in handling my difficulties. With such a start my forecast is that you are going to have a wonderful new year in your new job.

With best regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

R.W. BATES,
Commodore, USN (Ret).

Captain Edward J. Burke, USN,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Room 2805,
Arlington, Virginia.

Lel: 42231

1054

January 29, 1951

Dear Tichenor:

I have been advised that you were the Operations Officer for Admiral Christie during the Leyte Operation.

For your information, the Battle for Leyte Gulf is being analyzed at the Naval War College by the World War II Battle Evaluation Group, which I head. Three battles have been studied to date - Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island - and films have been made of the first two.

I have completed writing up the operation of the submarines in SOWESPAC up to 0719, October 17th, 1944. This was the time that the Japanese reported sighting Admiral Oldendorf's command as it approached Suluan Island at the entrance to Leyte Gulf.

What I wish to do is to send you what I have written and ask you to review it in the light of your position as Operations Officer to Admiral Christie. For your information, it has been reviewed by Captain Arnold Holtz who was one of the submarine captains and who is a student here. Also by Commander Harley Nauman.

Are you willing to review this? If you are, I will send it to you immediately.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Murray J. Tichenor, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 306
Millville, New Jersey

1055

January 30, 1952.

Dear Casey:

I expect to be down to Washington next week at which time I hope to see you for a few minutes for what I hope is a relatively simple matter. In order to save your time I am writing you now concerning my problems.

When Captain Gano was head of the Enlisted Section of BuPers he assigned to the War College, for my office, one Chief Yeoman and advised me at the same time that he would increase the allowance of the War College by one Chief Yeoman. (Naturally, this was to be done thru you). The Chief Yeoman arrived, remained here about a year and was sent out to the Central Pacific; his relief arrived and everything was fine. Last week we received dispatch orders to transfer the Chief Yeoman to ComONE for assignment. The matter was straightened out and the orders were promptly cancelled. However, from a study of the War College allowance lists, it seems that Captain Gano failed to increase the allowance by one (1) Chief Yeoman. This is almost amazing because I find in my files a letter thanking him for arranging the increase.

Captain Henderson was fully familiar with the situation and considered, apparently, that everything was alright, as I talked to him about it. He has now been relieved by Captain Burke, with whom I have spoken on the telephone.

Captain Burke says that he is willing and will gladly increase the allowance of Chief Yeomen by one when you have authorized it. So, I told him that I would see you about it.

Another problem is this. I have borrowed, from the Naval Base, a Chief Quartermaster who has been working with me on the Allied submarines for the past year. He is due to go to sea presently. It was my understanding, although I don't know how I could have been so dumb, that the Chief Quartermaster was being made permanent in the War College complement. Actually, as a matter of information, during my work here we have borrowed Chief Quartermasters on occasions from the Naval Base. For example, I borrowed a Chief Quartermaster to assist

Captain W.H. Ashford to plot some of the Midway operations because Captain Ashford had a bad leg. Now what I wish to do is to have a Chief Quartermaster (QN-0201) attached to the War College allowance for use in this section during this Leyte Gulf study. I need him, as the amount of research and chart work is prodigious. If you will increase this allowance I will see Captain Burke and obtain a Chief Quartermaster of consequence. I wish to get this Chief Quartermaster here very soon so he can take over the great volume of material which our borrowed Chief Quartermaster has collected and which will otherwise die with his departure.

I hope that my requests in this matter are not viewed with any undue concern by your office. Surely there are competent Chief Quartermasters due for shore duty who can fill this billet to his and our advantage.

Please don't reply to this until I see you.

With best regards for a very happy and successful New Year to you and DuBose, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral C.L. Green, USN,
ACNO (Personnel),
Room 4E522, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1057

February 11, 1952

Dear Captain Burke:

I am very happy to have had a most friendly conversation with you. I am glad that both Admirals Green and Bolger appreciate the necessity for sending personnel designated to the War College with such a designation. After speaking with you I spoke with Admiral Green and he said that he would arrange it.

I was visited today by a Chief Quartermaster, TREMBATH, Samuel T., 283 25 59, USN, in the USS VULCAN (AR-5) who has been on sea duty for thirteen (13) years and who feels confident that he could do this job. I don't know what your policy is in these matters nor do I know what kind of efficiency reports Chief Quartermaster TREMBATH has been getting. He has not requested shore duty, but wishes to volunteer for this assignment. Have you any thoughts on this matter? Please advise me when you have decided who is to relieve the Chief Quartermaster here, and who is to relieve Yeoman Second Class Joseph Cavanaugh. I will write you more presently on this matter.

With many thanks for your courtesy to me and for your understanding of my problems, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain E.J. Burke, USN
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Room 2805
Arlington, Virginia

1058

February 12, 1952.

Dear Germany:

You are a wonderful fellow to be associated with! I like the manner in which my desk here at the War College is associated with yours there at the Pentagon! I often come to Washington regarding my responsibilities in the handling of translators and people of similar ilk because difficulties have arisen which no one here can handle. I present the case to you and presto! the air clears. This is unusual for I have talked, over the years, to many officers in position to know about these matters and to date you are the only one who has straightened them out with decisiveness. Heretofore, I have had to wander back and forth for long hours throughout the Pentagon to obtain any results whatsoever.

I hope that the question of Mr. Clarke Kawakami and Mrs. Tanaka will be settled amicably for the coming year.

With best regards to an old combat shipmate, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral M.E. Curts, USN,
ACNO (Readiness),
Room 4E552, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1059

February 12, 1952.

Dear Captain Ruddy:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 31st.

I was glad to hear that the contract is about to be signed and I think that the firm that you have decided on will do a good job. The gentlemen of that firm have a lot of originality which the Battle of Savo Island will require.

I have received a letter from Admiral Nimitz congratulating me on the studies of Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island, and asking me if it is your plan to have a copy of the films of these movies in the Movie Libraries of District Commandants. I should like to reply to Admiral Nimitz and therefore would appreciate it if you would advise me presently as to whether films will be located in the District Commandants' Film Libraries and if not, then where.

Many thanks and best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain J.A. Ruddy, USN,
Commanding Officer,
Naval Photographic Center,
Naval Air Station,
Anacostia, D.C.

1060

February 12, 1952.

Dear Casey:

It is quite a satisfaction to come all the way from Newport to Washington and discover that what you are asking for is not excessive, and is viewed in a friendly nature by those responsible. Naturally, I am referring to the friendly attitude expressed by yourself concerning the needs of the WWII Battle Evaluation Group here at the War College.

As a matter of information, it is my understanding that you are (a) establishing an allowance of one YNC, one QMC, and one YN2 for this section, and that you will word the orders to BuPers in such a way that the personnel selected for this group will get here whether via ComONE or by direct transfer. Actually, this is an overall addition of one QMC as both YNs are in the War College allowance, although the YNC appears to be filling a YN1 billet.

I have discussed this whole affair with Admiral Conolly, and both he and Admiral Beakley are pleased with the understanding manner with which your office views the Naval War College, and agree with you that it is well to set up a special allowance for the WWII Battle Evaluation Group in view of its specialized nature.

With warmest regards and many thanks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral C.L. Green,
Room 4E522, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1061

February 14, 1952.

Dear Doctor Flower:

Although it is not customary, it seems to me that in view of your position as Medical Officer on the Astoria, you should have the opportunity to read the Battle of Savo Island.

If you have not been able to obtain it in your area, I will mail it to you from here and when you have finished reading it you can return it directly to the War College. If you have any ideas I should appreciate receiving them. A film will be made of this book commencing about May of this year.

It was nice to see you down there and to realize that you are in that very important assignment.

With very best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain Charles F. Flower, MC, USN,
Naval Examining Board,
Bureau of Yards and Docks Annex,
Arlington, Virginia.

1062

February 19, 1952

Dear Captain Dussault:

I think that the World War II Battle Evaluation Group is in hand now as regards Naval Aviators for the coming year. It is my understanding that Commanders A.H. Bowker, USN and S.E. Hindman, USN are to be assigned to me.

This will be quite a relief to you, I presume, as my presence in the future should be merely for a friendly call on you and Sutherland, and for no other reason.

It has been a long pull to obtain any officers of consequence and, although, I do not know too much about the above mentioned Commanders, they are at least successful graduates of the War College and should fit in very well.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain G.A. Dussault, USN,
Asst. Director, Aviation Personnel Division,
Room 4E412, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1063

February 19, 1952.

Dear Admiral Tichenor:

I regret that I haven't written ere this to thank you for the great interest you displayed in our study of the submarines of SOWESPAC during the early stages of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Needless to say, your extremely fair and understanding attitude was very much appreciated by me.

For your information, the reason that none of us had heard from Admiral Christy is that he was away. I received a note from him today saying that he would answer my letters presently as he has been in the Far East. I think he means that he had been on the East Coast of the United States for I heard in Washington, where I have been for the past week, that he had been there recently.

With best regards, and hopes if you come to this area again, you will drop in and say "hello," I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral Murray J. Tichenor, USN(Ret),
P.O. Box 306,
Millville, New Jersey.

1064

February 27, 1952

Dear Captain Burke:

Thank you very much for your letter. We have received a letter from the CNO dated 19 February 1952 which shows, for the WW II Battle Evaluation Group, the following allowance: 1 YNC, 1 QMC, and 1 YN2. A study of the CNO Allowance shows that one of the YN2's has been removed from the War College general allowance to the WW II Battle Evaluation Group allowance. Therefore, a relief for CAVANAUGH, J.W., 606 20 01, YN2 (YN-2522), USN, who's time is expiring, will be required.

The qualifications that I indicated for the Chief Yeoman, but of lesser consequence, are desirable for the YN2. I am confused as to what to do now, for it was my understanding with Admiral Green that the people for this section would be specially selected. Have you any advice on how to proceed in the case of CAVANAUGH as his rating has been transferred to this section?

Thank you for your information concerning TREMBATH, Samuel Thomas, 283 25 59, QMC (QM-0201-74), USN. We will communicate with him. I believe this thing can be readily handled. Meanwhile, when a relief is finally provided for CAVANAUGH he would like to go to the VULCAN (AR-5) which, while now at sea, will return here presently. CAVANAUGH advises me that there are numerous vacancies for YN's on the VULCAN.

I understand that STOUT, Merrill O., 393 22 31, QMC (QM-0201-84), USN, whom I borrowed from the Naval Base, has spent over twelve years at sea, mostly in destroyers. As his home is in Portland, Oregon, he thinks that some assignment in that area might be desirable. If he can't get that he would like to be assigned to some large ship on the west coast, preferably around Long Beach. He has had enough of destroyers.

With very best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain E.J. Burke, USN,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Room 2805,
Arlington, Virginia.

1065

March 3, 1952

Dear Captain Ruddy:

I am sorry I bothered you about the information which Admiral Nimitz desired concerning the location of the prints of the Coral Sea and Midway. However, I felt that you would know where they were going. I have informed Admiral Nimitz that there is one print of each of the above films at the Film Library of the Commandant 12th Naval District. Many thanks for your efforts!

I understood that it was BuPers' responsibility to distribute these films as officer training is a function of that Bureau. It was, therefore, with some surprise that I learned from you that the CNO had no plans to distribute the prints throughout sea-going ends of the Naval establishment. I shall see Commander Gibson about this.

I know that some ships have been using the written analyses in their "at sea" training of officers. The films are designed to parallel these analyses. Their value lies in the fact that they closely parallel such analyses and thereby assist in demonstrating to the student the command processes which these analyses are intended to portray.

It is not impossible that I shall be in Washington for several days next week, in which case, I shall contact you so that we may have a meeting preliminary to that desired by Film Graphics, and to which I referred in another letter of this same date. Of course, if Film Graphics wants a meeting before that date, I shall grant it in order to save time.

We are full of ice and snow up here and more is expected today - Ugh!

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain J.A. Ruddy, USN,
Commanding Officer,
Naval Photographic Center,
Naval Air Station,
Anacostia, D.C.

1066

March 3, 1962

Dear Captain Ruddy:

You will be interested to learn that the day before yesterday I received a telephone call from Mr. Lee Blair, Film Graphics Inc., New York, N.Y. He informed me that his firm had obtained the contract for the Battle of Iwo Jima. I told him that I was interested and pleased that he had it as I felt that he could do the job. I advised him to his evident surprise, that I had had nothing whatsoever to do with the contract; that that was within the province of your office, and was handled entirely by you without reference to me or to the War College.

Mr. Blair wished to know if the "Script" which he had was the latest and I said that, if it was marked War College, it was. However, as I had loaned my copy to your office for bidding purposes, I wasn't able to comment much. Which, by the way, forces me to ask you if I can obtain the return of my copy.

During the conversation he stated that he was anxious to have a meeting presently here at the Naval War College with which idea I of course agreed, providing that I am the technical advisor. I assume that I am, although I have received no word to that effect. He also told me, at this time, that the film was to be entirely animation with no "live film." I told him that this was a great surprise as it was my understanding that the War College would have some say in this matter.

I don't know when we are going to have this meeting, but when we do I hope that no "row" will occur when I suggest that there are places where "live film" can be used. I don't know anything about your Mr. Johnson yet, but I don't want to have the terrific trouble with him that I had originally with Mr. Southgate and later with Audio Productions over the method of making this film. I feel that had we had proper coordination to begin with, we might have saved time and possibly expense in the original

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two films. Mr. Blair wisely sees this and says that live film, in view of the research required, is no cheaper to insert in the film than animation, and therefore, should I desire to put in some live film he is agreeable and will make no profit thereby. I hope you will advise your representatives not to throw up roadblocks in this matter. I know that they know infinitely more about making normal films than I do, but I also know that they know little about making the Coral Sea and Midway films as they were a departure from such normal films. I, at least, knew what I wanted, and I am sure that I know what I wish for Save Island. If I didn't I would not have worked so hard to get it produced.

I know from my association with you that you can well appreciate my desire as well as that of the War College, to produce a film which will portray our ideas here and, in particular, my ideas. I also know that with you we will have the utmost in cooperation.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain J.A. Ruddy, USN,
Commanding Officer,
Naval Photographic Center,
Naval Air Station,
Anacostia, D.C.

1068

March 4, 1952

Dear Casey:

I have finally located the final officer for my staff. His name is Commander John S.C. Gabbert.

According to BuPers, when I spoke to them - that is, I spoke to Captain Kinney for one, concerning an additional officer to complete my allowance - Captain Kinney stated that the allowance called for a LCDR. I told him that that was unimportant, that you had told me that the allowance would be changed in rank from LCDR to CDR. May I ask you to do this now as the War College is putting in an official request for CDR Gabbert and we may have some trouble obtaining him. Actually, he has no orders and has heard of none officially, although he hears rumors that somebody wants him in BuPers.

This, in my mind, is a serious error because (a) just being graduated from the War College he should be continued in that kind of work for the present, and (b) he is anxious to have this job. In fact, he came down and asked for it.

As you know, it has been very difficult to find the right people for this work as the work is highly laborious and requires considerable understanding of military operations. A War College graduate is generally essential as he has been doing some of this work during his course.

If you will ask Admiral DuBose to give a green light to Gabbert's assignment it will be helpful. Meanwhile, I'll write your boss myself.

I hate like the devil to have to bother you as I do. But, your shoulders seem broad and you carry the load well. It is no wonder to me that you have that job!

I plan to be in Washington early next week to clear up this matter, as well as to handle other matters relating mostly to this section.

Best to you as always,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Re: Admiral C. Green
Room 4E412 Pentagon,
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

(Airmail Special Delivery)

1069

March 4, 1952.

Dear Larry:

I am writing to you as the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel to ask you to use your good offices to assist me in obtaining for the War College Staff the services of Commander John S.C. Gabbert now a student at the Naval War College. I am writing to you in this matter not only because you are the Chief of Naval Personnel, but also because you, as a former Head of Department of this college, know the problems here.

Of course, my section is relatively new and you perhaps might not be familiar with its undertakings. As a matter of information, I am making the analyses of the major naval battles of World War II, and I am now on the Battle for Leyte Gulf. This is a massive undertaking and has been so recognized recently in Washington. Although I have been given an allowance of five (5) officers I had not asked for five (5) until now as I did not have enough data to keep them fully busy. I need them now and I am asking for them. I will have my additional aviator in June, but my additional line officer has not been obtained as yet. Commander Gabbert not only seems suitable for this job, and is about to graduate from the War College, but also, he wants the job. Three important requisites are therefore filled.

There have been rumors that someone in BuPers wanted to get Commander Gabbert, but there is nothing definite and they seem to be only rumors. Besides, your Bureau has the whole Navy to choose from whereas my work is so selective that but few officers are suitable. I think that the fact that Commander Gabbert will soon be a graduate of the War College makes it wise to employ him here now. Besides, he is the only officer available. As a matter of fact, he has been recommended by the Heads of the Strategy and Tactics, and Strategy and Logistics Departments for this assignment.

1070

The importance of my section is so recognized here that I always get serious consideration in the War College. For this reason, the President of the Naval War College is submitting an official request for Commander Gabbert.

I expect to be down in Washington the early part of next week, on this and other matters, at which time I hope to see you.

My best to Gertrude, who has always been a wonderful gal.

As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral L. T. DuBose, USN,
Chief of Naval Personnel,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

March 5, 1952

Dear Rolle:

I am forwarding to you in a day or so what I have written to date on the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Considerable information is available concerning the Japanese air and is being analysed now, but it is not in good enough shape to forward to you. When it has been straightened out there will be some comments in the operations of the 3rd Fleet concerning the accuracy of the 3rd Fleet's various estimates of damage done. The Japanese information on this is meager as they destroyed many of their vital reports.

I am sending you the whole of the American side with the hope that with your experienced eye you will point out any discrepancies, or disagreements.

Before you return this to me I will come to Washington to discuss any comments with you, as I can obtain much more that way than by a mere letter, although I will be pleased to receive a letter for the record.

You will notice, in reading the comments I made concerning Admiral Halsey's operations, that, on occasions, I have used terms such as "He appears to have reasoned about as follows." See page 132, 10th line from the bottom.

I hope that I will be able to do the same thing with you that I did with Admiral Tishenor concerning the SOWESPAC submarines. That is, I want to put in the definite statement rather than to say, "It would appear." I would prefer to say, "He reasoned as follows." Will you mark in the book where ever you can make a flat statement? I am asking you to do this as you were ComTHIRDFlt's Operation Officer and I feel that much of his reasoning came from you.

You will observe that the charts are not complete. This is, in part, because we have to use the draftsmen when they are available.

1072

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However, the charts which you will have are adequate to give a pretty clear conception of the various operations of the various forces. Weather data is lacking on the charts, but will be put in when I get it from CNO's Weather Central.

I plan to be in Washington next week at which time I will contact you.

With best regards and appreciation for your interest in this, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral R.E. Wilson, USN,
3800 Newark Street, NW,
Washington, D.C.

1073

March 5, 1952.

Dear Germany:

I am coming down to Washington next week to see about some matters connected with my office most of which I think I can handle myself. I plan, however, to drop in to say "hello" to you and to issue a casual query as regards my translators whose services are really quite important. As I move along on the Japanese side I see the additional data which I need.

It is not enough to have the translations of the commander's various reports alone, but it is necessary also to have the translations of the reports of the division and ship commanders as well. This is because senior commanders either do not have the whole story or because they forward a picture which is not correct, but which places them in a favorable light.

Since my section is more or less under you, you will be interested to read the following comment from Admiral Nimitz concerning my work here on the Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island studies. This comment was received a few days ago. "I congratulate you on the fine job you are doing and I wish for you and the War College a long and continued period of collaboration." Naturally, it is my wish to produce for the Leyte Gulf study an equally fine job.

I was delighted to see that your old predecessor, Robert Briscoe has taken command of the 7th Fleet. He is a very capable fellow, in my mind. Who knows, perhaps you will succeed him one fine day.

With best regards and with hope that you are taking things easy, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral M.E. Curts, USN,
ACNO (Readiness),
Room 4E552, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1074

March 5, 1952

Dear Bud:

In accordance with my promise of several weeks ago I am sending you, in a day or so, what I have written on the Battle for Leyte Gulf to date. I am sending you the whole works and you, of course, may read what you will.

What I have written so far is only the background up to Oldendorf's landing on Suluan Island on October 17th. While my analysis for this period is not entirely complete, it is complete enough to receive your comments.

Before you return my papers to me I will come to Washington to discuss any comments with you, since I can obtain much more that way than by a mere letter, although I will be pleased to receive a letter for the record.

You will notice, on occasions when I haven't had the facts, that I use the words, "presume" or, "It appears that" or something of that nature. In view of your close association with these operations I hope that you will be able to review such phrases and replace them with something more definite. I did this with Admiral Tichenor concerning the SOWESPAC submarines and it improved my write-up considerably.

You will observe that the charts are not complete in all particulars, but they are adequate to give you a pretty clear conception of the various operations of the various forces. They are quite complete as regards the submarines.

I plan to be in Washington next week, at which time I expect to contact you.

With best regards and appreciation for your interest in this, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral E.E. Yeomans, USN,
Room 4B713, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

1075

March 17, 1952.

Dear Captain Kenney:

I am in receipt of Admiral DuBose's letter of 12 March, and I have been permitted to read your letter of 11 March to Admiral Beakley. From these and from my recent conversation with you, it is obvious that I am not to obtain the services of CDR GABBERT. This is quite satisfactory to me, providing that I get someone else of equal or better qualifications.

It is unfortunate, in your letter to Admiral Beakley and in Admiral DuBose's letter to me, that the question of the rank of LCDR has arisen. It is unfortunate because I thought that I had explained thoroughly that the question of the rank was not important -- that the rank will be changed to suit the personnel available. In order that there might be no misunderstandings, after speaking to you I went over and saw Admiral Green again. Admiral Green once again reiterated that the allowance would be changed to suit the rank of the officer you finally obtained for me.

I realize that you are having hard times there with your personnel and I am not anxious to embarrass you in any way. On the other hand, when I took this job I was promised the cooperation of everyone. I have received such cooperation everywhere except in the question of obtaining officers of certain qualifications for my staff. The work that I am doing here is very difficult, and it must be correct. Therefore, I must have people of consequence here.

As I said to you the other day, I should have an officer of reasonable experience who is (1) a graduate of the Naval War College, (2) has had combat service, (3) has served well on a staff, (4) has had duty both ashore and afloat, (5) an officer who has completed a Post-Graduate course should be more valuable than a straight line officer, as it indicates an ability to research and study, (6) an officer who has done navigation duty would also be advantageous, as it indicates an ability to plot and a knowledge of relative movement.

There must be a large number of officers who graduated from the War College, Classes of 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, who fulfill most of the above requirements.

1076

If you desire me to do so, I will send you a list of the graduates out of whom perhaps you may choose someone suitable.

I gave the above requirements to CDR SEMMES when I was there last Thursday. I feel confident that in his careful hands I will receive the correct person. The sooner I get him the better as I have work for him now.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Captain William T. Kenney, USN,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Room 2715, Arlington Annex,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.